

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 SP-02 STR-04 TRSE-00

LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 L-03 AGRE-00 IGA-02 DODE-00

PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 /062 W

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FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2524

INFO ALL EC CAPITALS 2835

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY BABANE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE EC BRUSSELS 11976

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, EEC, XA

SUBJ: COMMISSION PLANS EMERGENCY AID FOR LESOTHO AND INQUIRES
RE US PLANS

REF: (A) STATE 290244 (NOTAL); (B) EC BRUSSELS 11118 (NOTAL);
(C) MBABANE 1938 (NOTAL); (D) EC BRUSSELS 10071

1. EC COMMISSION OFFICIALS TELL US THAT LESOTHO'S MINISTER OF FINANCE AND PLANS SEKHONYANA RECENTLY VISITED THE COMMISSION TO ASK FOR EC EMERGENCY AID. TRANSKEI'S DECISION TO CLOSE ITS BORDERS WITH LESOTHO HAS CREATED SERIOUS SUPPLY AND EMPLOYMENT PROBLEMS. THE COMMISSION IS PLANNING TO PROVIDE TO LESOTHO ONE MILLION UNITS OF ACCOUNT (U.A., \$1.11 MILLION) OF EMERGENCY AID AND A SPECIAL FOOD AID GRANT TO BE USED TO ASSIST WORKERS IN THE SOUTHEAST REGION. THE EMERGENCY GRANT WILL BE USED TO UPGRADE THE ROAD BETWEEN LETHENA AND SEKAKE IN ORDER TO HELP LINK THIS REGION WITH THE REST OF THE COUNTRY.

2. AS PART OF ITS INDICATIVE AID PROGRAM FOR LESOTHO, THE EC HAD ORIGINALLY EARMARKED 4 MILLION U.A. TO HELP IMPROVE THE
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MASERU AIRPORT. IT IS NOW SHIFTING ONE MILLION U.A. OF THIS

AMOUNT TO BE ALSO USED FOR THE ABOVE ROAD PROJECT. THE TOTAL
EC FIVE-YEAR PROGRAM FOR LESOTHO AMOUNTS TO 22 MILLION U.A.

3. COMMISSION OFFICIALS ASK IF THE US HAS ALSO BEEN
APPROACHED TO GIVE EMERGENCY AID TO LESHOTHO AND, IF SO,
WHETHER WE ARE PLANNING TO DO SO. THEY ALSO ASK IF THE US
HAS DECIDED TO ALLOCATE AID FUNDS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT PLAN OF
THE UNIVERSITY OF BOTSWANA AND SWAZILAND (UBS) AND, IF SO,
FOR WHICH ASPECTS OF THE PLANS. THE COMMISSION WOULD LIKE TO
INCLUDE ANY US CONTRIBUTIONS IN ITS REPORT OF THE RECENT UBS
DONOR CONFERENCE. PER REF A, WE NOTE THAT THE DEPARTMENT AND
AID ARE PREPARED TO ALLOCATE FUNDS IN 1977 AND 1978 FOR UBS.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: MISSION WOULD APPRECIATE BEING INFORMED
OF ANY US EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE TO LESOTHO AND OF ANY DECISION
TO ASSIST UBS. HINTON

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